

AUSTRIAN BATTLESHIP TORPEDOED BY ITALIAN SHIPS WHICH BOLDLY PENETRATED INTO PORT OF POLA

Official Announcement Given Out in Rome To-day Told of Destruction of Vessel of Viribus Type During Early Hours of Tuesday

ITALIAN FORCES DODGED PATROL BOATS AND AUSTRIAN LIGHTS

SEA PLANES ALSO JOINED IN

Two Austrian Planes Were Brought Down and Several Others Were Forced Down Out of Control

Rome, May 16.—An Austrian battleship was torpedoed by Italian naval forces in Pola harbor early Tuesday morning, it was officially announced to-day.

The battleship was of the Viribus type (20,000 ton vessels). The Italian force worked its way into the Austrian naval base by dodging the patrol boats and searchlights of the defenders.

While the naval operation was progressing, an Italian seaplane force engaged Austrian battleplanes above Pola. Two of the Austrians were brought down and several others were compelled to descend out of control. The Italian machines all returned safely.

The text of the official announcement reads:

"Italian naval units, avoiding patrol boats and searchlights, succeeded in entering Pola harbor early on Tuesday and in torpedoing an Austrian battleship of the Viribus type."

"Simultaneously, Italian seaplane squadrons attacked Austrian battleplanes over Pola, brought down two and forced several others out of control. The Italian machines all returned safely to their bases."

There are four Austrian battleships of the Viribus type class, which comprised the largest and most modern fighting vessels completed for the Austrian navy up to the time the European war broke out. The other ships of the class are the Tagethof, the Prinz Eugen and the Szent Istvan. The named ship was completed in October, 1912, and the others at intervals between then and the beginning of the war, with the exception of the Szent Istvan, which was not finished until 1915.

Each battleship of the class displaces 20,000 tons, is 525 feet long over all, 80 feet beam and 28 feet draught. Their armament comprises 12 12-inch and 12 5.9-inch guns in the main battery, with 18 1.1-pounders and various smaller guns. The complement of the battleships ranges from 962 to 988 men. All are heavily armored, and are classed as dreadnoughts. The Viribus units developed a speed of 20.9 knots on her trial trip.

BRITISH IN FORAY NEAR GAVRELLE

Raided Enemy Trenches and Brought Back a Few Prisoners—Artillery Is Active at Other Points.

London, May 16.—The artillery was active last night in the valleys of the Somme and Ancre rivers, east of Arras and on the Flanders battlefields, the war office reports.

The statement follows: "Our troops raided the enemy's trenches last night in the neighborhood of Gavrelle (northeast of Arras) and captured a few prisoners."

"Beyond artillery activity on both sides at different points, particularly in the valleys of the Somme and Ancre rivers, east of Arras, and on the northern battlefield, there is nothing further to report."

BIG GUN COMBAT AND RAIDS MADE

Only Minor Activities on the Amiens Front—French Took Some Prisoners North of Ailette.

Paris, May 16.—Artillery actions occurred last night on the French front southeast of Amiens, in the Hailes Castel sector, says today's war office announcement. West of Montdidier, a German raiding detachment was driven off. The French took prisoners in patrol operations north of the Ailette.

The text of the statement reads: "An artillery duel took place in the Hailes-Castel sector. A German raid west of Montdidier was repulsed by the French."

"French patrols operating north of the Ailette, brought back prisoners."

"The night was quiet on the remainder of the front."

RECEIVED BY KING GEORGE.

American Labor Delegation Conferred with Him at Home.

London, May 16.—The American labor delegation was received by King George at Buckingham palace to-day. The visit lasted an hour.

HAD NO SECRETS FROM WILSON ELECTION HELD

Foreign Secretary Balfour Told All About the War That He Could

AUSTRIAN MESSAGE OF PEACE WAS SEALED

Therefore, Message (Supposedly Prince Sixtus') Couldn't Be Transmitted

London, May 16.—Foreign Secretary Balfour was asked in the House of Commons to-day whether Prince Sixtus of Bourbon, to whom Emperor Charles of Austria addressed the letters last year in which peace was offered to France, paid two visits to England in connection with the peace proposals and whether he was in communication on this subject with Premier Lloyd George. The question was brought up by Robert Outhwaite, liberal member of the House of Commons for Hanley. Mr. Balfour replied that the subject was not one which could be dealt with by question and answer.

The whole topic of Emperor Charles' proposals was discussed to-day in the House of Commons on the initiative of the pacifists and advocates of peace by negotiations.

In response to questions, Mr. Balfour said that Emperor Charles wrote a letter to a relative (Prince Sixtus) a brother-in-law of the emperor, and that it was conveyed by this relative to the president and premier of France under the seal of the strictest secrecy recently. No permission was given to communicate the letter to anyone except the sovereign and premier of this country. (This answers the question which has been raised as to why the emperor's proposals were not communicated to President Wilson.)

Mr. Balfour said he had no secrets from President Wilson. Every thought he had on the war or in regard to questions of diplomacy connected with the war was open to the president.

The foreign secretary said he did not think it would be possible for the United States and Great Britain to carry on the great war in which they were engaged or to deal with the complicated day to day problems without complete confidence. So far as he was concerned, complete confidence would always be given. The British government, he continued, would be shown the government whereby that would be accomplished, it would of course, be accepted. He added, however, that no effort at conversations which had been made by the central powers had ever been made in the interest of fair and honorable peace; to the contrary, they had been put forward in order to divide the allies.

Referring to the statement made by Walter Runciman, formerly president of the board of trade, that France had asked for a bigger Alsace Lorraine than that of 1870, Mr. Balfour said there was no question of this bigger Alsace Lorraine being the war aim of the allies. "If any representative of any belligerent country," the foreign secretary then declared, "desires seriously to lay before us any proposals we are ready to listen to them."

14 CONCRETE SHIPS TO CARRY OIL

Decided on By Shipping Board, the Ships to Have Capacity of 105,000 Tons.

Washington, May 16.—Immediate construction of 14 concrete tank steamers for the fuel oil trade, with a total capacity of 105,000 tons and of four concrete cargo vessels with a total capacity of 12,500 tons was decided on to-day by the shipping board.

The new vessels will be in addition to 18 concrete ships, totalling 117,000 tons, for which the contracts already have been let. Eight of the new ships will be built on the Pacific coast and the others in Atlantic coast yards.

PLANNED MOBILIZATION

In Order to Protect Russian Republic from Menace.

Washington, D. C., May 16.—A copy of the protest made by the Soviet government to the German ministry of foreign affairs on April 26 against German aggression, made public to-day by the state department, shows that the Russian gave notice of their intention to mobilize "all necessary forces in order to secure the freedom and independence of the Russian republic, which is now menaced beyond the limits established by the Brest treaty."

RAPID RISE IN WAR COST.

Expenditures for March Show a Big Increase.

Washington, D. C., May 16.—Rapid increase in war expenses for the army and navy and for the shipbuilding program was shown to-day by a treasury report covering March expenditures of \$1,229,000,000. The government spent \$370,000,000 for the military establishment in March, \$47,000,000 more than in the previous month; the naval establishment cost \$143,000,000, as compared with \$92,000,000 and the shipping board \$116,000,000, as against \$58,000,000.

McADOO PROTESTS

Against Action of Private Contractors in Taking Railroad Workers.

Washington, D. C., May 16.—Director General McAdoo to-day asked the department of labor to stop private contractors from taking railroad workers. The contractors, he said, have refused to co-operate with the government and are disorganizing the working forces on the roads. The department of labor replied that at present it has no authority to stop the practice, but hopes to remedy conditions later.

Vermont Odd Fellows Selected O. W. Edwards of Burlington as Head

REPORTS SHOWED NO NEW LODGES

And the Membership Remains Practically the Same

A Burlington man, O. W. Edwards, is to head the grand lodge of Vermont Odd Fellowship in 1918-19 as the result of elections which took place in Howland hall this afternoon, where the grand lodge opened its annual meeting earlier in the day. The remaining elective officers were named as follows: Deputy grand master, Alexander Duncan of Barre; grand warden, H. T. Brown of Ludlow; grand secretary, Frank W. Jackson of Barre; grand treasurer, L. C. Grant of Burlington. As grand master Mr. Edwards succeeds J. A. Spear of Woodstock, and Mr. Duncan succeeds Mr. Edwards as deputy grand master. Mr. Jackson was re-elected to an office which he has held for several years.

Attendance at to-day's gatherings was the largest of the convention of grand lodges, which opened Monday evening. Delegates from distant lodges whose arrival was delayed by heavy rains, came last night and this morning, many of them arriving in automobiles. To their number was added a large delegation of Rebekahs, arriving for the annual festivities and business meeting of the state Rebekah assembly, which opens this evening. Fair weather is favoring the Odd Fellows and their auxiliary organization, and the attendance to-morrow is expected to be even larger.

Grand Master Spear opened the 72d annual session of the grand lodge this forenoon at 9 o'clock. Around 200 delegates and a majority of the grand lodge officers were present. Judge Henry V. Bost of New York, deputy grand sire, who addressed the meeting last night, was introduced as a guest. He spoke encouragingly of the progress of Odd Fellowship throughout the country. Other guests included G. E. Price, past grand chaplain of New York and Justin Emery, grand master of New Hampshire Odd Fellows. Messrs. Price and Emery spoke briefly.

Before the election of officers, various committees were heard and reports from several officers read. The annual statement of the grand secretary showed that the fraternity in Vermont has managed to hold its own in the past year, although confronted by unusual conditions. The aggregate membership remains practically the same, and the number of lodges is unchanged. None were instituted and no charters were revoked. Election of officers was ordered by ballot and the vote was taken at 8 o'clock. Most enthusiasm prevailed and the announcement of each ballot was followed by brief remarks on the part of the candidate honored.

Sixty past grand officers received the grand lodge degree, the only ceremonial of the morning session. The work was completed by Alexander Duncan acting as grand warden. The business session of the grand lodge was continued this afternoon.

For the entertainment of Odd Fellows' wives and other members of the Rebekah assembly who arrived early, there were automobile trips to the shore. Most of the visitors chose the trip to Millston hill and thence down to Williamstown and through the gulf. This afternoon at Hotel Barre, between the hours of 3 to 5, there was a reception in honor of the members of the Rebekah degree. The degree will be exemplified by Ivy lodge of Montpelier at 8 o'clock to-morrow. To-morrow's program has been arranged as follows: Thirty-third annual session of the Rebekah assembly in Howland hall at 9 a. m., with the state president, Mrs. Emma S. Rand, presiding. Odd Fellows and Rebekahs will keep open house in Howland hall in the evening at 8 o'clock, which function will mark the close of convention week.

Past Grand Officers' Association.

One of the most enthusiastic gatherings of convention week was the annual meeting of the past grand officers' association which followed it in Howland hall last evening. The session followed a busy assembly in the afternoon, when the grand encampment, which began its business meeting in the morning, continued its discussion of current problems. Appointive officers, named to supplement the grand encampment officers elected in the forenoon, were announced as follows: Grand marshal, F. H. Palmer of Bristol; inside sentinel, H. H. Kidder of White River Junction; outside sentinel, P. A. Dean of Bellows Falls.

Installation of the grand encampment officers came in the latter part of the evening. J. M. Jewell of Proctorville was officially inducted into office along with the other officers-elect, the installing being done by the retiring grand patriarch, Elmer E. Jenne of Newport. The ceremony was witnessed by a large number of Odd Fellows and the work was highly commended by the onlookers.

Officers of the past grand officers' association were elected soon after the meeting was called to order. They are as follows: President, H. C. Farrar of Rutland; vice-president, Smith B. Waite of Hyde Park; secretary, Frank W. Jackson of Barre; treasurer, O. E. Chilson of Burlington; historian, F. G. Nichols of Richmond; executive committee, Calvin Edmond of Bennington, Gerry F. Walker of Bellows Falls, and W. T. Haigh of Rutland; committee on invitation of guests, H. C. Farrar, O. W. Edwards of Burlington, J. M. Jewell of Proctorville, and G. H. McCall of Brattleboro.

At 8 o'clock impressive post prandial exercises were gotten under way. For patriotic reasons the annual banquet was omitted this year, but the program which followed lost nothing by the fact that it waited appetizer. The appearance of a squad of Canton Vintners bearing the colors signified the opening of the program. The color guard marched to the head of the hall and there deposited the color stand, the audience singing "The Star Spangled Banner," with every member standing at attention. At present it has no authority to stop the practice, but hopes to remedy conditions later.

Miss Henrietta Inglis followed with a vocal solo, and then there were remarks by the grand master, E. A. Spear of Woodstock, who felicitated the past grand officers on their splendid spirit. Mrs. Nelson B. Ballard contributed a piano solo. Rev. G. E. Price of Rutland contributed a timely speech on Odd Fellowship, and he was followed by Louis H. Baine of Montpelier, who rendered a vocal solo.

The principal address was delivered by Judge Henry V. Bost of Amsterdam, N. Y., the deputy grand sire. He made an excellent impression and his remarks readily attracted to the loyalty which Odd Fellows are showing in the present war. He urged upon his fraternal brothers the necessity of "keeping the home fires burning," while contributing of their money and members to the great cause over there. He was heartily applauded.

Step dancing by Leslie Mercer, in which the young exponent of highland terpsichorean art performed very creditably, followed Judge Bost's speech. The closing ceremony of the evening came when the deputy grand sire presented veterans' jewels to two prominent members of Vermont Odd Fellowship. The first recipient was J. A. Foster of Waterbury, who was presented a past grand representative's 25-year jewel. To J. G. Roy of East Barre was awarded a 35-year veterans' jewel. Mr. Roy is the grand representative. Both were given a warm ovation. Following the presentation, the audience sang "America," and benediction by Rev. Mr. Reardon brought the exercises to a close.

SMALL FIRE IN BARRE.

Called Out Barre Firemen for a Little Work Early To-day.

An early morning fire which threatened the destruction of a large barn in the rear of the Co-operative store on Granite street was quickly smothered to-day by the firemen, who responded to a general alarm from box 15. The damage was almost negligible, as the regulars extinguished the blaze with themselves before it had gone far. Some one walking along Granite street noticed smoke issuing from a corner of the building. He called police headquarters, and an officer at once notified the fire station. In the meantime, the man turned the alarm on Granite street, with the result that the entire department, including call men, responded. Hostlers who rushed to the barn at the first alarm were on the point of removing the horses when the regulars assured them that the structure was in no danger.

The fire, which seemed to have had its origin under a wagon, burned along the north wall of the building and was working its way into the ceiling when the firemen arrived. The barn is used in connection with the Co-operative store and the slight loss is covered by insurance.

EXETER STOPPED GAME.

Because of Alleged Insulting Remark by Goddard Player to Exeter Instructor.

Exeter, N. H., May 16.—Yesterday's game with Goddard seminary came to a summary and unpleasant close in the second inning. With two out for Exeter, R. Jones hit safely, driving in two runs. Capt. Jones then hit to Goddard's second baseman, who threw wild to first, and the first baseman in turn threw wild to the plate, these errors resulting in three more runs for Exeter. Her ground rule in case of a wild throw allows a runner to take one base in addition to that he is running to.

Goddard protested the decision of Umpire Madix allowing the three runs, but matters were seemingly composed by Howard A. Ross of the Exeter faculty, and the second inning closed with the score 5 to 0 in Exeter's favor.

As the Goddard players were going to their positions, a player made an insulting remark to Mr. Ross, who ordered Exeter's manager to pay Goddard the money guaranteed, and stopped the game.

LEAVE THIS AFTERNOON.

Washington County Men Who Enlisted for Special Training.

The Washington county boys who have responded to the call to the colors under call number 160, which sends 365 in the state to Burlington this afternoon for a few weeks to a school in mechanical training for truck driving and repairing, congregated at the county courthouse this afternoon and are to leave Montpelier on the 5:10 o'clock train for Burlington. Mayor F. W. Mitchell is ill and President H. C. Shurtleff of the city council is out of town, but members of the council took hold of the matter, so that it was expected that a suitable send-off would take place.

VERMONT MAN KILLED.

Ormand Wheeler Run Over By Engine at Providence.

St. Albans, May 16.—Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Wheeler of Diamond street received a fatal blow when their son, Ormand Wheeler, aged 36, was killed at Providence, R. I., yesterday morning, having been run over by an engine while he was at work. The body is to arrive here this evening.

The young man leaves, besides his parents, a brother, John Wheeler of Providence, a sister, Mrs. Clyde Leonard of Fitchburg, Mass., and his wife and two children.

STRIKE IS SETTLED

Through Decision of the National War Labor Board.

Washington, D. C., May 16.—A temporary ten per cent. wage increase was granted by the national war labor board to-day to St. Louis street car employees. The strike of the street car men, it was announced, has been definitely settled through the board's action.

To Remodel State House Annex.

Contractor A. R. Lane of Barre has been engaged to supervise the remodeling of the annex to the State House proper in Montpelier, following the removal of several state departments to the new state building near the Pavilion hotel. The part to be remodeled was formerly occupied by the supreme court, the historical society and the state library. The work will be done under direction of the state board of control and the sergeant-at-arms. The annex will be largely made over into offices.

Buy a Bond.

Liberty is like health, never fully appreciated until lost. Get wise in time. Lend a little to restrain liberty, or you may have to pay a lot to regain it. Boston Transcript.

WAR CHEST PLAN PUT IN FORCE

Barre Organization Was Complete Meeting of Citizens

EVERY BODY IS SOUGHT AS A CONTRIBUTOR

Arrangement Is Provided to Meet All of the Recognized War Calls

How much will you give to the war chest? To every man and woman, and to a good many children, it is hoped, will come this question within a short time as the result of an enthusiastic war meeting in the court room at city hall last evening, when prominent citizens of Barre formed the Barre War Chest association, and thereby committed this community to the war chest as a medium of contributing to various war charities, such as the Red Cross, the Knights of Columbus, the Y. M. C. A., etc. It was a largely attended meeting, and discussion of plans carried the assembly so far as to result in a tangible organization to guide the forthcoming community effort.

The officers elected are as follows: President, City Clerk James Mackay; vice-president, Henry Alexander, president of the granite cutters' local; secretary, V. E. Ayers; directors, B. Lucchini, Arthur C. Moore, S. H. Jackson, William Barclay, Alderman A. J. Lorange, Harry Dale, J. E. Langley, Supt. C. H. White of the city schools, James T. Marston and James Smart.

Afterward the directors met and elected committees to carry forward plans already roughly outlined. Supt. C. H. White and J. T. Marston of the school commission constitute a committee to arrange for taking a preliminary census through the medium of high school students. A committee consisting of Messrs. Smart, Barclay, Langley and Moore was assigned to the task of formulating a working plan for the campaign. The publicity committee is to consist of H. P. Hinman and Athol Bell.

Adoption of the war chest method has met with the approval of a large number of people, and as Barre has not failed in any effort it has undertaken since the war began, it may be guessed that a most strenuous campaign will carry this community over the top. No minimum has been fixed, but it is believed that the sum of \$500 and perhaps more may be raised for the chest. At the meeting last evening frank and open discussion of the question, pro and con, seems to have composed many differences of opinion, and it may be said that the community is squarely behind the Barre War Chest association in its endeavor to provide a simple and logical plan for raising patriotic funds without waste or duplication of effort. The impending campaign will take the place of the Red Cross drive locally, as the Red Cross is to be the first war charity to receive a contribution.

A war chest is a plain, common-sense plan of providing a fund for expenses which the community in all human probability will be required to meet during the year, and by subscribing to it as liberally as one possibly can he is merely contributing his share to the financial responsibility resting upon this city and every man's home which this war, for the defense of the freedom of our institutions, has forced upon us. The war chest plan should appeal to every citizen. Sporadic campaigns are not only a tremendous waste of energy and effort, when it is considered that the same end might be attained through one drive or campaign for a war chest. When the war chest is finally established, it is intended that such fund shall meet all requests for special contributions for war purposes, whether it be for the Red Cross, Armenian relief, or any of the several good causes to which Barre people have been contributing in the past year.

Right here it may be said that local war charities are not to be overlooked. Families impoverished by reason of the war, families in straitened circumstances as the result of the enlistment of bread winners are to be helped by the war chest. The man who contributes to the war chest will have the satisfaction of knowing that he is helping in carrying on, not merely one or two or three branches of war relief work, but that he is doing his bit to furnish bread and safety to the persecuted, to provide comforts for the soldiers in the trenches and in the hospital and to do a thousand and one other good works.

Contributors may be made as best suits a payment's convenience. Monthly or even weekly installments are being considered, and each person approached in the coming campaign will be asked to make a pledge. Subscribers in other cities have ranged from \$1,000 to 25 cents per week. Whatever an individual may subscribe he has the satisfaction of feeling that his contribution is a part of a steady income for the war chest. "We must dress our dollars in khaki and send them over the top" is one of the slogans that will be sounded from the house tops as the opening day of the campaign approaches. Before that day, however, additional details of the campaign and the workings of the war chest plan will be discussed from time to time.

SUPREME COURT ENDS.

May Term at Montpelier Was Very Short.

The work of the May term of supreme court was completed Wednesday afternoon and court adjourned without day, the closing proclamation being made by Deputy Sheriff Charles Smith. The arguments were made in the Orleans county case of William and Mary Hoyt vs. the Village of North Troy. In this case a verdict was directed for the defendant in the lower court. This is a case over damages to property. The defendant raised the street about two feet and the plaintiffs claim that this placed the home of the plaintiffs so much below the street that it became valueless. They brought suit to recover the value of the property, estimated at \$2,000.

The rest of the cases were continued, excepting that of Eleanor Bernier vs. the Fitchburg Land & Lumber company, a case in which judgment affirmed was entered.